

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W  
----- 130190

R 260612Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1665

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1813

STATE FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OTRA, BU  
SUBJECT: USDOC VISITORS TO BULGARIA

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERESTS OF MOST EFFECTIVE US/  
BULGARIAN CONTACTS IN BUSINESS/ECONOMIC CONTEXT,  
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IN THE FUTURE, USDOC CONSIDER  
MORE CAREFULLY THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST THE FLOW OF  
USDOC VISITORS TO SOFIA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT MONTHS, SIX USDOC VISITORS HAVE BEEN  
PROPOSED TO VISIT SOFIA. EMBASSY HAS AGREED TO FIVE  
VISITS, WILLINGLY IN FOUR CASES (STROH, GEORGE,  
MONROE AND THOMPSON), RELUCTANTLY IN ONE CASE  
(BILLION), AND HAS NOT AGREED TO SIXTH VISITOR (BOWIE.)

3. OUR CONCERNS ARE SEVERALFOLD. BECAUSE OF  
BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE PROTOCOL, EACH VISITOR MUST  
BEAT PATH TO SAME DOORS AND USUALLY SEES SAME OFFICIALS. TO BE  
FRANK, FEW VISITORS HAVE HAD ANYTHING NEW TO ASK  
NOR HAVE BULGARIANS HAD ANSWERS TO GIVE THAT WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY  
GIVEN OTHER USDOC VISITORS, OR WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN  
REPORTED BY EMBASSY. AN "OVERLOAD PROCESS" HAS DEFINITELY BEGUN TO  
APPEAR, AS FAR AS THESE BULGARIAN OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED, WITH THE  
VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT HIGH-LEVEL USDOC PERSONNEL VISITING  
SOFIA IN FUTURE WILL BE TREATED AS "JUST ANOTHER VISITOR."

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4. WE ARE NOT SAYING WE DO NOT LIKE VISITORS, AND ARE AWARE

THAT PERSONAL VISIT BY WASHINGTON-BASED OFFICIALS CAN ENHANCE  
UNDERSTANDING OF AND INTEREST IN US-BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC RELATIONS. AT SAME TIME, THERE COMES A POINT WHEN MARGINAL  
UTILITY OF ONE MORE USDOC OFFICER CALLING ON BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN TRADE, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ETC., BECOMES NEGATIVE. IN  
ORDER TO INSURE THAT KEY USDOC VISITORS ARE WELL-RECEIVED AND  
DERIVE FULL BENEFIT FROM THEIR VISITS HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT USDOC  
-- IN COORDINATION WITH STATE (EUR/EE) -- SHOULD CAREFULLY VET EACH  
PROPOSED TRIP AS TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.  
HERZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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